

You will find many block clubs in Chicago. You know that a block has a club when you see a sign. The sign will say, "Welcome to our block." Then it will list rules. One rule might be, "Do not litter." Or it might be, "No loud music."

People make up block clubs. Neighbors decide to set one up. One neighbor may be the leader. That person starts it. The person may ask a few neighbors if they want to start the club. Or they may have a meeting. They invite all the people who live on the block.

People who join a block club want to have a good place to live. They want their children to be safe. They want the street to be clean. They want to be friendly. The signs usually say something like "This is a great block."

When a new family moves into the block, the block club leader will meet with them. The leader will explain the rules. The new family joins the block club by moving there.

Sometimes a block club may have a problem. It could be someone on the block is not following the rules. If it is a serious problem, neighbors may be angry. They may talk with the person. They may send a letter to that person. They will tell them that they must follow the rules.

Sometimes a block club calls the police. They report a problem. They have tried to solve the problem. The police will come to talk with the people making the problem. They hope they will cooperate.

Block clubs have fun, too. They may have a block party. The children play together. The adults talk about the community. Everyone has a good time. Some people say block clubs are like a big family.

Questions developed by Center for Urban Education for use by Chicago Public Schools 2008-2009.

Directions: Choose the best answer for each question

1. How do neighbors feel about members of their block club?

- a. friendly
- b. angry
- c. unhappy
- d. cooperate

2. How do people feel about neighbors who do not follow the rules of the Block Club?

- a. sorry
- b. angry
- c. police
- d. community

3. How do the members of the block club feel about their neighborhood?

- a. family
- b. happy
- c. proud
- d. sorry

4. How do you think the children feel because of the block club?

- a. safe
- b. pretty
- c. busy
- d. worried

5. *Write your own answer to this question.*

How do you think a new family feels about the members of the block club?

TEACHER NOTES: Develop Students' Skills: Exercise Thinking

These questions have not been validated, so decisions about student's achievement should not be made based on their responses. They are intended to exercise skills. Recommended activities include: students work in pairs to choose the best response; give students the questions without the responses so they generate their own answers; students make up additional questions; students make up questions like these for another passage.

Answers: *You can remove this answer key and then give it to students and ask them to figure out the basis for the correct response.*

Item	1	2	3	4
Answer	a	b	c	a

Question 5 is open-ended. Here is a suggested response.

5. They feel welcomed or they like having new friends.

The Robinsons moved into the neighborhood in July. It was very hot. They saw the sign about the block club. Mrs. Robinson said, "That is good. I want to live on a safe block."

The next day, Jimmy and Jerome Robinson were outside playing. They were playing baseball. Adam Johnson came to play with them. He said, "I'm glad to have someone to play ball with." He lived across the street.

Jimmy hit it hard. It went into the neighbor's yard. He said, "I'll go get it. Wait for me here."

"No, don't go there," said Adam. That's where Mr. James lives. He is the head of the Block Club. He will be angry. We are not supposed to play baseball on the street. We are supposed to go to the park to play baseball."

"But my mother will be angry if I lose our ball," Jimmy said.

So he went to the neighbor's yard to get the ball. A tall man came out of the house just as he got to the ball.

"Who are you and what are you doing here?" he asked.

"I'm Jimmy Robinson, and I came to get my baseball. I'm sorry I hit it here. I didn't know the rule."

"OK. You can get it this one time. But remember, we all need to follow the rules on this block. The rules help us have a good place to live, a safe place to live. If you want to play ball, go to the park."

Jimmy ran back with the ball. Adam and Jerome were glad to see him. "That's my brave brother," said Jerome. Just then their mother came outside. "Mr. James called me. He says he wants to help us understand the rules of the block. What have you been doing?"

Directions: Choose the best answer for each question

6. Why does Mrs. Robinson like the Block Club?

- a. They are neighbors.
- b. They help make it a good neighborhood.
- c. They have many rules.
- d. They had a park.

7. How does Adam feel about Jimmy and Jerome?

- a. He does not like them.
- b. He is angry that they moved in.
- c. He wants to be their friend.
- d. He is afraid of them.

8. How does Mr. James feel about the children?

- a. He wants them to be safe.
- b. He wants them to play ball.
- c. He does not like them.
- d. He is angry with them.

9. How does Jerome feel about his brother?

- a. proud
- b. angry
- c. brave
- d. sorry

10. *Write your own answer to this question*

How do you think Jerome's mother feels about him?

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Answers: *You can remove this answer key and then give it to students and ask them to figure out the basis for the correct response.*

Item	6	7	8	9
Answer	b	c	a	a

Question 10 is open-ended. Here is a suggested response.

10. She is worried about her son. She loves him and wants him to be safe.